

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, September 16, 2010

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting:

October 12, McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Ted Mendoza, Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, Paul Schneller, Toby Strout, Bill Brown, Andy Davis, Matt Laherty, Dave Rollo

Regrets: Melissa Clark, Heidi Russell Wagner

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Chris Bentley

Several members of a IU Sustainable Communities class were present

Announcements: Farmer's Market Water Barrel Demonstration: Sept. 18, at 8 am and at 10 am
Simply Living Fair: Sept. 24th

Green News Network Call-out for Content: working on prototype website. Call out for submissions to newsletter going on now! Would love to get more student and young adult content in newsletter.

Themester focus on Sustainability: Wonderful speakers will be coming throughout the semester. You won't want to miss it. Robert Sconza will be speaking in early October regarding a, "New Economic Paradygm." He will be meeting with the City Council and the Mayor.

New Director for the County Planning department—Larry Wilson. He seems very supportive of sustainable efforts.

Looking for new appointees for BCOS. Hope to have a full committee by next meeting.

Approval of the minutes: The minutes from the August 2010 meeting were approved.

Sustainable Communities Class Overview:

13 students will be assisting BCOS with its efforts. The class hopes to help with:

- Analyzing indicators
- Researching best practices from surrounding communities
- Working with individual subcommittees

Requesting that all subcommittees send a paragraph summary of what each committee would like to accomplish

Update on STAR data collection and committee reports:

Food: Sent report at Bill's request as to what the students could do to assist BCOS. We're especially interested in local food production. Looking for a list of organizations in the area. With this list, we'd like to survey the organizations to find out what they're doing to use local food

Starter Gardens: An effort to get urban citizens to plant small gardens at minimal cost. This could be especially useful for people with lower incomes.

Q: Could we have the Sustainable class tackle some of the areas in the STAR report?

Q: How can we find out what's being done currently with urban agriculture?

Q: What data is being tracked currently and what data would it make sense for us to track from now on?

Q: How many acres are being devoted to food production now?

Q: How can it be measured?

Q: Where can we find locally grown production?

Jacqui: A GIS layer is being created with good and bad food establishments. Query tool wasn't working so wasn't able to view information but looked at the layer at least.

San Francisco Tree Database: A Google map outlining every tree in San Francisco with each tree's species and diameter. Could we use a similar formatted map to show urban food production in Bloomington?

Current Goals of the Food subcommittee: Increase the number of acres being devoted to food production, decrease fossil fuels use by limiting transportation needs for food.

Q: How can we differentiate between an acre production model from a smaller intense garden format? Only 2% of our food in Monroe County is locally grown.

GIS layer on green space does not include private gardens because of size issues. Only measures 1 acre sizes.

Water: Cynthia got updated info from Melissa since Melissa was home with sick family members. Not quite sure how to proceed because of a lack of committee members.

Meeting with a group to discuss Little Drip project. Still very interested in working on the project if anyone would like to help, please let Jacqui know.

Water conservation staff position has been postponed until funds for salary increase

County just increased water rates to make improvements on water facilities. Just waiting for approval. A water conservation plan has already been formulated. Water conservation is of grave importance to our county but yet there seems to be no way of even finding out how much water being used per citizen. It's somewhere between 0 and 3 units.

Training on how to use cisterns is needed. The City has designed very affordable homemade cisterns.

Energy: Met today. Andy Davis is not able to be here tonight. Pretty much the same boat as Water subcommittee. In need of more committee members. We have a lot of great projects on the table but we need more committee members to make them happen: shade tree projects, energy efficiency plans, etc.

Working on STAR report text right now. Waiting to hear back from Duke Energy and the total number of Solar panel connections.

Will send summary of committee's goals and projects to the Sustainable class.

Q: What neighborhood associations require black roofs and no clothes lines?

A: The amount of pitch is usually the important thing rather than the color of the roof. Most associations actually give people the options of black or brown. To find specific neighborhood you'd have to look at individual Neighborhood Association charters or the Recorder's office.

Q: Is there any focus on energy audits for homes?

A: Yes, HAND has some data on this, but HAND has been occupied by other projects. All city building will be converted to LEED Silver.

Q: What kind of tools are available to do this?

Kenneth Cline (member of the public): Aviation fuel is being generated by biofuels. Is anyone working on doing this as well here? West Lafayette facility creates heat and cooling for waste facility as well as producing part of it's own electricity. Also powers some city vehicles. Our facility using Aerobic processes which was decided upon 20 years ago. It would be expensive to make the switch but worth a cost-benefit analysis.

BCOS recommended Kenneth should talk to Denise about starting a Green Business in Bloomington using biofuels. There are grants available right now, but grant applications can be very complicated and time intensive.

Q: Maybe the students could work on finding communities who are using these processes? Do the BCOS subcommittees meet at the same time and day each month? No, whenever they can meet, but you can be added to our mailing lists so you'll know when our next meetings will be held. Usually held just before BCOS meeting so we can report soon afterwards.

Q: Does BCOS look at waste issues?

A: Yes. We don't have a landfill anymore so we have to transfer our waste away from Bloomington. We are always looking for ways of reducing and recovering our wastes. Recycling in apartments would be a great step. Bailer has been approved. Of the Three Es, Equity often gets the short stick. Lower income folks will be hit the hardest.

Communications: Still waiting until we can do more with the website. Met at lunch to discuss creating a Green Movement website. The Green Network Newsletter will be the first step and will then morph into the website. Still looking for content for this issue of the newsletter.

Future Ideas for Website: Two way blog, video and audio feeds, and a searchable resource for sustainable services. We're looking for something simple and that can be searched easily.

Hope to have the preliminary version of the website up by next month and the full version later this fall. Please email sustainabilitynw@gmail.com with ideas and content for newsletter. Also request to receive the newsletter through this email as well. People don't know what's being done so hopefully this website will change that.

Jacqui gave an update on her activities, including the Hoosier to Hoosier Sale, coming up on August 21; her work in getting rainbarrels for Showers; and Team Platinum (the internal counterpart for the Platinum Bike Task Force).

Cynthia mentioned that the STAR committee met with part of the Environmental Commission to discuss the possibility of merging the STAR effort with the EC's BEQI—possibly creating one sustainability report.

Other Business

Chris is finishing up updating a few section of the STAR report. Will send information through Jacqui as soon as it's done.

Hoosier to Hoosier: It was a great success. We had anywhere from 15-100 tons of materials to be sold. Raised \$10,000 for Habitat for Humanity and United Way. Looking for ways of making measuring the success for systematic. Just a couple of truck loads were left by the end. All the furniture went very quickly. Some things were donated to Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity. Had about equal representation between students and other residents.

Q: How many people were there to buy and how many were there to get things to sell?

A: Though we didn't really measure this, it seemed like most people were just there to buy.

Bike Friendliness Task Force: Met for the first time last week. We're attempting to make Bloomington a Platinum rated city according to the League of American Cyclists. The group has philosophically different approaches: keep the b bikes off the roads on paths and incorporating bikes into the traffic patterns and roads.

Met with Housing Authority. Planning design for extension of the B Line trail. It would be great for the NW communities to have immediate access to the trails by having inlets from the road grid. Maybe having bike workshops or free helmet give aways would help to get some excitement in this part of the community. Need to help make this community feel more connected to Downtown. There's a city employee version of the bike task force composed of engineers and planners as well. They have met once so far. Bloomington is not like Western cities with very wide streets. Some streets can't fit bike lanes. Sharrows might be helpful though as can be seen in Portland. All new subdivision need to

incorporate bike lanes, but some still don't, Davis, CA is a great example of incorporating Bike Blvds. That might be a great fit for Bloomington.

A motion to adjourn was called and unanimously approved at 7:26.